

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
) NO. 21-MJ-170
v.)
)
JOE D. CISNEROS,)
)
Defendant.)

UNOPPOSED MOTION
TO CONTINUE GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT

Defendant, Joe D. Cisneros, by and through his attorney, Romero & Winder, PC (Joe M. Romero, Jr.), hereby respectfully moves this Court for a sixty-day continuance of the grand jury deadline. As grounds, Defendant states:

1. Defendant was arrested on February 3, 2021.
2. A Preliminary Hearing was held in this case on February 8, 2021.
3. The deadline for grand jury presentment falls on Thursday, March 5, 2021.
4. Defendant and the government are currently engaged in plea negotiations and the exchange of discovery for a possible pre-indictment resolution of this case.
5. Also, without objection by the government, the Court has approved the modification of conditions of release in this case, such that on March 16, 2021, Defendant is scheduled to be transferred from pretrial detention to a Veterans Affairs (VA) inpatient treatment program.
6. Undersigned counsel affirmatively states that under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7) the ends of justice will be served by granting this extension of time for presentation to the Grand Jury. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(1). See *United States v. Hernandez-Mejia*, 406 Fed. App'x. 330,

338 (10th Cir. 2011) (“The Speedy Trial Act was intended not only to protect the interests of defendants but was also ‘designed with the public interest in mind.’”) (quoting *United States v. Toombs*, 574 F.3d 1262, 1273 (10th Cir. 2009)). Pursuant to section 3161(h)(7) of the Speedy Trial Act, the ends of justice outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy indictment for several reasons. First, a continuance of the deadline for grand jury presentment will allow Defendant additional time to review discovery with his attorney. Second, a continuance will allow the parties to pursue plea negotiations, including allowing Defendant time to receive necessary mental health treatment, which treatment will likely impact plea negotiations. Such negotiations may result in a resolution of this matter more favorable to Defendant than might otherwise be obtained following indictment. As such, a continuance serves both Defendant best interests and the interest of the public.

7. The Defendant’s interests and the public’s interest in a speedy indictment are outweighed by (1) the public’s interest in a reasonably expeditious resolution of this matter; (2) the public’s interest in relieving the burden that would be placed on judicial, prosecutorial, defense, and law enforcement resources if the case proceeded to a speedy indictment; (3) the potential benefit conferred on Defendant as a result of a potential pre-indictment resolution of this matter.

8. This motion is not predicated upon the congestion of the Court’s docket.

9. AUSA Rumaldo Armijo does not oppose this motion.

WHEREFORE, Defendant requests this Court enter an Order continuing the time limit for filing an indictment. Defendant requests that this waiver be valid for an additional period of sixty (60) days and that the deadline for grand jury presentment be extended until Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe M. Romero, Jr.

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that, on February 27, 2021, the foregoing pleading was filed electronically pursuant to CM/ECF procedures for the District of New Mexico, which caused the parties and/or their counsel to be served by electronic transmission, as more fully reflected by the Notice of Electronic Filing.

/s/ Joe M. Romero, Jr.

Joe M. Romero, Jr.